



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# Construction Bulletin

No. 96-15 Issuing Office: CEMP-CE Issue Date: 6/20/96 Exp. Date: 31 DEC 98

## CEMP-C

**Subject:** PROJECT SCHEDULE (NAS)

**Applicability:** INFORMATION

1. The Network Analysis Prospect Course has been around for many years. Recently the content and format of this course have undergone significant changes. This has been brought about by recent industry trends to the Precedence diagramming method. A past graduate of the course will find that, while the basic construction problem is the same, the nature of the diagram and the types of reports are considerably different reflecting capabilities and considerations of the newest programs available. In addition a Project Management oriented problem has been added to widen the audience which can realize benefits from the use of these systems.
2. Gone are the long, detailed, manual exercises of repeated forward passes. These entailed considerable time previously and were not always well received by students. Now manual analysis is a thing of the past and is presented in the course only to help the student understand what is happening when his computer indicates a forward or backward pass is in process.
3. Also the Arrow Diagramming System has been de-emphasized. Precedence diagramming has been the choice of practically all of the student workgroups during the past several years when they were given the choice of diagramming methods. Some major scheduling system vendors do not accommodate arrow diagramming with their most up-to-date systems.
4. Now that Precedence is the predominate system in use, there are several significant aspects of the system that need to be understood. Precedence has the capability of start-to-start and finish-to-finish inter-activity relationships which, while allowing more flexibility in diagramming, also require more understanding of their effect on the analysis. Also the relatively simple i-j or "dictionary" sort of activities is replaced by a report including predecessors and successors in order to understand the project logic.
5. Shortly the title of the course will become "Project Management (NAS)". This is intended to better define the new aspects of the course. As ever, the instructor staff will continue to monitor the student feedback and adjust course content when significant

CEMP-CE

SUBJECT: Project Schedule (NAS)

commentary indicates a need for some new subject or material. In this regard quite a number of students have indicated a desire for training on the computer as a part of the course. In light of the logistics required to do this and the desire to concentrate on the meaning of various aspects of the schedule, we have resisted doing this. The course is intended to acquaint the student with the systems available and how to understand and update the schedules without concentrating on one program.



CHARLES R. SCHROER

Chief, Construction Division